Diversion of defence land

*17. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that defence land in Mumbai has been diverted as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 2nd May, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that defence land is not used for non-defence purposes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Reports have been received regarding misuse of defence land in Mumbai. The matter is being enquired into.

भारतीय वायुसेना के प्रशिक्षु विमानचालकों के लिए जीवन बीमा

*18. श्री शिव चरण सिंह:
श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय वायु सेना के प्रशिक्षु विमानचालकों का उनके प्रशिक्षण काल के दौरान जीवन बीमा नहीं कराया जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इन विमानचालकों को जीवन बीमा सुरक्षा प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसका क्या औचित्य है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री मुलायम सिंह): (क) से (ग) भारतीय वायुसेना के प्रशिक्षार्णी पायलटों को 1.8.96 से 3.3 लाख रुपए की जीवन बीमा सुरक्षा मुहैया करवाई गई थी। 10 मई, 1997 से इसे बढ़ाकर वायुकर्मी और ग्राउंड ड्यूटी शाखाओं के लिए क्रमशः 800/- रुपए तथा 560/- रुपए के मासिक अंशदान के साथ 10 लाख रुपए कर दिया गया है।

Anti-militancy operations in Punjab

*19. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held detailed discussions with senior security officers of Punjab including DG-Police and the former DGP-Mr. K.P.S. Gill who directed the anti-militancy operations in Punjab to review the situation obtaining amongst the security forces in the aftermath of the suicide committed by the suspended Tarn Taran SSP Ajit Singh Sandhu; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken or are being taken by Government to restore the morale of the security forces in the region?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Government has reported that inspite of some of police officers facing cases relating to their alleged excessive actions in tackling militancy, the morale in the Police Force remains high and it is committed to maintain internal security in the State. Both State and Central Government are seized of the difficulties being faced by some of the officers, and men of Punjab Police and necessary legal help would be provided to them, on merit of each case.

Strike by Group C and D employees of

*20. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group C and D employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Delhi went on a

strike in the month of April this year demanding proper investigation into the alleged murder of their colleague Shri K.M. Babu whose partially burnt body was recovered from the Connaught Place Telephone Exchange building on April, 17; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action was taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Some of the staff members staged lunch-hour demonstrations at Khurshid Lal Bhavan demanding proper investigation into the alleged murder of their colleague Shri K.M. Babu.

(b) The matter is under investigation by Delhi Police.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

MTNL records destroyed in Chander Lok Fire

1. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 23rd June, 1997 under the heading Records implicating MTNL top brass burnt in Chander Lok fire.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pertaining to tender scam in MTNL which has been under probe of the CBI alongwith the names of officials involved therein, which have since been destroyed on account of fire; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The documents pertaining the case referred to in the Press Clipping of Indian Express dated the 23rd June, 1997 were taken into custody by the CBI officials on 5th June, 1997 pertaining to the offices of Superintending Engineer (C-C) and Executive Engineer (C-V) before the occurence of fire on 17th June, 1997 (F/N). Some more documents were taken by the CBI on 17th June, 1997 (A/N) from the office of Executive Engineer (C-I), MTNL, New Delhi whose office is located in the TE building/ CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi.

(c) There is only one case registered by CBI. The MTNL officials against whom CBI is conducting the enquiry given in Para (b) are Shri Kul Bhushan, Superintending Engineer, Shri H.R. Kaushik, the then Executive Engineer (EE) and Shri R.C. Arora, Executive Engineer, HQ.

(d) This decision for further course of action will be taken, on receipt of report of the CBI and in consultation with the CBI.

Internet facilities at the affordable cost

2. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to provide Internet facilities at the affordable cost in view of its popularity and usefulness;

(b) whether VSNL will be able to cater the increasing demand for Internet connection;

(c) whether Government are aware that the users of Internet has lot of complaint that they are not able to